
Experiences from the Trenches of “Hard Money”

Michelle Fennessy, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor
The Ohio State University
College of Nursing
Fennessy.6@osu.edu

My Background

- PhD in Nursing
 - University of Illinois at Chicago
 - CV Outcomes Research
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship
 - UC Davis
 - Gordon Moore Fellow
- Assistant Professor
 - Center for Complex & Critical Care
 - Tenure track position (six year tenure clock)

Day to Day Life: College of Nursing

- State Institution
- Percentages: 50% research/40% teaching/10% service – tenure requirements
- Research Responsibilities
 - Writing Grants
 - Institutional Contracts
- Two (2) classes taught per year (contractual)
 - Course prep (new course) - large responsibility
 - Email correspondence with students, grading, mentoring - time consuming

Why I Took This Job

- Concern about pressures for funding
- Preference for tenure track position in academia
- University resources
- Department chair invested in success of junior faculty during interview
- Good benefits and salary
- Inexpensive cost of living in Ohio
- Enjoy teaching/mentoring

Benefits

- Independence/flexibility
- Mentorship opportunities
- Local funding opportunities (institutional, state, departmental)
- "Less" pressure for funding/funding type

Challenges

- You may be the resident expert
- Advising/mentoring is a major responsibility
- Little time for research in light of heavy teaching responsibilities
- Research environment can make funding challenging
- Research mentors are at other institutions
- Limited opportunities for collaboration with other faculty members
- Difficult to focus due to limitations/responsibilities

Every Position Has Its Challenges

- Live and learn but consider advice
- Quality of life vs. “Successful Career”
- You can make it work – how efficient is the process?
- What is important to you?
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Mentoring